(c) Ministry of Power has not received any report of any such study by Manufacturersu Association for Information Technology(MAIT) and Emerson Network Power (India).

(d) The Government is already taking steps to improve the power situation in the country, which include the following:

- Rigorous monitoring of capacity addition of on-going generation projects.
- Development of Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4,000 MW each under competitive bidding.
- Harnessing surplus captive power into grid.
- Renovation, modernization and life extension of old and inefficient generation units.
- Import of coal to meet the deficit in supply of indigenous coal,
- Steps necessary to augment manufacturing capacity in the country.
- Augmentation of gas suppiy to utilize the stranded capacity of gas based power stations.
- Reduction of AT&C losses through implementation of various measures under R-APDRP scheme.

Power Theft

†400.SHRI PRABHAT JHA:
SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the opinion that power theft causes heavy losses to Government exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of losses to the exchequer during last five years, due to power theft;

(c) the reasons for Governmentus failure in checking power theft in country; and

(d) whether in order to curb power theft at rural level in country, Government proposes to constitute women squad on the lines of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttarakhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, power theft causes loss to State Government exchequer as State Government is responsible for the distribution sector and losses are primarily in the distribution segment. Theft of electricity is one of the major contributing factors impacting the fmancial health of power utilities. This also contributes to poor quality of power supply, frequent load shedding and unscheduled outages.

The financial health of power utilities is also one of the criteria for assessing the viability of new investments. This Theft of electricity is also one of the reasons for high AT&C losses in the country.

As per the Report on the Performance of the State Power Utilities for the year 2005-06 to 2007-08 published by Power Finance Corporation, the average all India losses stand at 29.24 % during 2007-08 and the aggregate losses (without accounting for subsidy) of all Utilities during the last five years are as under:

Year	Aggregate Losses (Rs. Crores)
2003-04	19249
2004-05	24045
2005-06	20869
2006-07	27101
2007-08	31862

(c) Government of India has introduced the Electricity Act, 2003 which provides a legal framework for making theft of electricity a cognizable offence. Under Section 135 of the Electricity Act, 2003, whoever dishonestly taps lines or cables or service wires, tampers, damages or destroys meters etc., shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to three years or with fine or with both.

It is also true that there is lack of proper infrastructure in sub-transmission and distribution system in many states/utilities. Distribution utilities are under the jurisdiction of State Governments.

Now in 11th Plan, the Government of India has Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme(R-APDRP), in which the entire distribution system would be IT enabled. Establishment of reliable and automated systems for sustained collection of accurate base line data, and the adoption of Information Technology in the areas of energy accounting will be necessary pre-conditions before sanctioning any project under Restructured APDRP (R-APDRP).

Projects under the scheme shall be taken up in Two Parts. Part-A shall include the projects for establishment of baseline data and IT applications for energy accounting/auditing & IT based consumer service centers. Part-B shall include regular distribution strengthening projects.

So far 1130 projects at the cost of Rs.4183.93 crore have been approved to eighteen states (Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal) under Part-A.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration in Government of India, as this is a State Subject.